

The Hon. Robert S. Lasnik
Chief Judge David G. Estudillo

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff

v.

JOSE MISAEL SANCHEZ JIMENEZ,
Defendant.

NO. CR23-133RSL

NOTICE OF RELATED CASE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff

v.

1. EDGAR ALEJANDRO ZATARAIN
RODRIGUEZ,
2. IKER DANIEL CASTILLO SARABIA,
and

NO. CR23-136RSL

NOTICE OF RELATED CASE

3. MATEO DE JESUS GONZALEZ
GARCIA,

Defendants.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

v.

LUIS FRANCISCO GARAY SOTO,

Defendant.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff

v.

WAYLAN GRAVES,

Defendant.

NO. CR23-137RSL

NOTICE OF RELATED CASE

NO. CR23-5287DGE

NOTICE OF RELATED CASE

BACKGROUND

On August 16, 2023, Jose Miseal SANCHEZ JIMENEZ was indicted for one count of *Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute* (A-Level) under CR23-133RSL.

On August 16, 2023, Edgar Alejandro ZATARAIN RODRIGUEZ, Iker Daniel CASTILLO SARABIA, and Mateo De Jesus GONZALEZ GARCIA were indicted for one count of *Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute* (A-Level) under CR23-136RSM.

Notice of Related Case - 2

United States v. Sanchez Jimenez, CR23-133RSL

United States v. Zatarain Rodriguez, et al., CR23-136RSL

United States v. Garay Soto, CR23-137RSL

United States v. Graves, CR23-5287DGE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
700 STEWART STREET, SUITE 5220
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
(206) 553-7970

1 On August 16, 2023, Luis Francisco GARAY SOTO was indicted for one count of
2 *Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute* (A-Level) and one count of
3 *Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of Drug Trafficking*, under CR23-137JHC.

4 On October 11, 2023, Waylan GRAVES was indicted for two counts of
5 *Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute* (A-Level) and two counts
6 of *Carrying a Firearm During and in Relation to a Drug Trafficking Crime*, under CR23-
7 5287DGE.

8 These cases all arise from a DEA investigation into drug trafficking in the Western
9 District of Washington and elsewhere. During this investigation, phones associated with
10 other individuals were subject to Court authorized wire interception. During the course of
11 the investigation, three residences were identified as locations in which drugs were likely
12 being stored and at which individuals involved in drug trafficking were believed to be
13 residing. On August 8, 2023, federal search warrants were executed at residences
14 associated with SANCHEZ JIMENEZ, ZATARAIN RODRIGUEZ, CASTILLO
15 SARABIA, and GARAY SOTO. In each location, the defendants were found, and
16 significant quantities of controlled substances were seized.

17 During the interception period of this investigation, agents intercepted a call
18 referencing defendant GRAVES. Indicating that GRAVES was being supplied by the
19 Drug Trafficking Organization (“DTO”) associated with SANCHEZ JIMENEZ,
20 ZATARAIN RODRIGUEZ, CASTILLO SARABIA, and GARAY SOTO. Additionally,
21 agents intercepted a voicemail placed by a member of the DTO to GRAVE’s phone at the
22 time.

23 While GRAVES was arrested on two occasions, before and after the execution of
24 the federal warrants he was known to DEA agents throughout the overarching
25 investigation.

DISCUSSION

Local Criminal Rule 13 encourages counsel “to file a notice of related case in order to bring such cases to the Court’s attention.” The Court may reassign criminal cases pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 13 which provides:

(a) **Common Questions.** When criminal cases involving common questions of law and fact (but not necessarily the same parties) are assigned to different judges, there may be good reason to assign all of said cases to one judge. Such may be assigned to the judge to whom the case bearing the earliest filing number was assigned, at his or her option.

The United States submits this notice to inform the Court that the cases set forth above are related. All four matters involve drug trafficking offense. While GRAVES was not arrested with the other members of the DTO, his communications were intercepted. Additionally, while GRAVES was arrested by state agencies, there is still the possibility of an overlap in some witnesses if any of the matters go to trial.

//

//

//

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, the government submits this notice advising the Court that these all of these cases are related such that reassignment to the same judge may be in the interest of judicial economy. The government is not requesting that these cases be joined for trial.

DATED this 2nd day of November, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

TESSA M. GORMAN
Acting United States Attorney

s/ Casey S. Conzatti
CASEY CONZATTI
STEPHEN HOBBS
Assistant United States Attorney
United States Attorney's Office
700 Stewart, Suite 5220
Seattle, WA 98101-3903
Telephone: 206-553-4254
Fax: 206-553-0755
E-mail: casey.conzatti@usdoj.gov